المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

PRESS RELEASE

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PRESIDENT MUHAMMAD ZIA-UL-HAQ, A GREAT MUSLIM LEADER

With profound sorrow and deep regret the Islamic Council has learnt of the tragic demise of President General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan in an air disaster which took the toll of many valuable lives. Expressing his sympathy for the people of Pakistan, and the families of all who died in the crash, the Council's Secretary General, Mr Salem Azzam, paid a tribute to the soldier-statesman of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan who was a source of inspiration to the Islamic Council. He said that the untimely passing away of General Zia is a loss of inestimable magnitude for Pakistan and his absence from the centre stage of the Ummah will be keenly felt all over the Islamic world for years to come.

During the past eleven years with General Zia at the helm, Pakistan not only witnessed the progress of prosperity in secure stability, but also a steady evolution of Islamicization in the country. General Zia's dedicated passion for the enforcement of Islam culminated in the adoption of Shariah as the law of the land and in the emergence of a wide range of Islamic institutions to fashion the way of life in Pakistan.

As Chairman of the Islamic Conference, General Zia had the unique privilege of addressing the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of the entire Islamic world. That was the only occasion when the General Assembly proceedings began with a recitation from the Holy Quran. His unremitting perseverance in the efforts made as Chairman of the Ummah Committee to bring the Gulf War to a speedy end will long be remembered by peace loving people the world over. And his contribution in promoting the establishment of the Jeddah-based Islamic Science Foundation will remain a beacon of light for the future

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generations of Muslim people.

Above all, General Zia will remain enshrined in cherished memory of the Ummah for the unwavering support he gave to the valiant struggle of the Afghan Mujahideen. Undeterred in his determination and undaunted by all threats of consequences, General Zia stood firm as a rock of faith in his belief that it was Pakistan's bounden duty in the name of Islamic brotherhood to extend every possible succour to the uprooted millions who had become the hapless victims of a rampant Soviet aggression on the soil of Islamic Afghanistan. The glorious success of the Afghan struggle today is in no mean measure a direct consequence of the unshakeable resolve which General Zia had shown.

May the departed soul rest in peace! And Allah in his benign mercy grant the bereaved family the courage to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude. The Council calls on Muslims everywhere to offer Salat-al-Ghaib for the salvation of this great Muslim leader.